



payment through the amount deposit acceptor 400A to be credited to the music studio. Alternatively, the customer can download financial data onto a diskette inserted into the read-write drive 400D. Additionally, the customer may audition live through the camera 423 and the microphone 422 for TV commercial or movie studio.

In a further embodiment, with music from a website, the customer may sing using the lyrics appearing on the monitor 424, through the microphone 422, and may simultaneously download the whole performance onto a compact disc or dislette using the read-write drive 400D. The customer may take the recorded performance and walk away or may have the option to transmit the performance to a website that participates in accepting on-one live performances for audition and promotional commercials.

As set forth above, the present invention makes it possible for the customer to select the desired merchandise by operating in accordance with the contents of a display and simultaneously accessing websites or homepages by operating the input means in accordance with the contents of the display. Additionally, the customer may download information from websites and may perform live for the websites which can be recorded. As a result, the vending machine door of the present invention can be used to attract greater patronage than previous devices. The invention also benefits consumers by providing more access to information and also to provide two-way interactive communication functions.

What is claimed is:

1. A vending machine for sale of items selected by a customer, said vending machine including a door for retrofitting an existing vending machine, said door comprising:

a storage unit for storing a plurality of items for sale and a dispensing mechanism for dispensing the items from said storage unit;

a selector device for selecting one or more of said items for sale by a customer;

a payment-control device for receiving and detecting an amount of payment required for sale of an item and for actuating said dispensing mechanism when a payment is received to dispense a selected item; and

a computer assembly connected to said storage and dispensing unit, selector device and payment control
device and having a computer, video display screen and
a communication network, whereby said computer is
connected to and actuated by said selector device for
automatically connecting said computer to a preselected internet site and automatically displaying
information obtained from said internet site on said
video screen for viewing by the customer, said computer assembly further including customer actuating
means for enabling a customer to interface with said
computer.

2. The vending machine of claim 1, wherein

said communication network comprises a modern and said computer assembly further includes a telephone line connection for connecting said computer to said internet site.

3. The vending machine of claim 1, wherein

said computer comprises softward for selectively connecting said computer to a plurality of different internet site and being connected to said selector means for automatically connecting said computer to a specific internet site in response to a selected/item.

4. The vending machine of claim 1, said computer assem-

bly further comprising
data storage means connected to said selector device for

displaying selected stored information in response to a selection of items by a customer.

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5. The vending machine of claim 4, wherein said computer displays information from said data storage means at idle times of said vending machine.

6. The vending machine of claim 5, further comprising a speaker for broadcasting audio signals, where said data storage means transmits signals to said video screen and speaker to display advertising information from said data storage means.

7. The vending machine of claim 1, said computer further

comprising
user operated keypad and trackball for operating said
computer to connect said computer to an internst site
selected by said customer.

8. The vending machine of claim 1, said computer further including

speakers for receiving audio transmissions from said

9. The vending machine of claim 1, said computer further comprising

an audio display device, a microphone and audio recording device for recording audio by said customer.

10. The vending machine of claim 9, wherein said computer further comprises

a camera and video recording device for recording an

image of said customer.

11. The vending machine of claim 1, wherein said computer further comprises

a central control unit for an audio-visual connection to an internet site;

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- a transmission unit for transmitting an audio-visual signal from said computer to said internal site;
- a receiving unit for receiving audio-visual signals from said internet site; and
- a recording unit for recording and storing said audiovisual signals.
- 12. Adoor for retrofitting an existing vending machine for sale of items selected by a customer, said toor comprising:
  - a storage unit for storing a plurality of different items for sale and a dispensing mechanism for dispensing the items from storage unit;
  - a selector device for selecting one or more of said items for sale by the customer;
  - a payment-control device for receiving and detecting an amount of payment required for sale of an item and for actuating said dispensing mechanism when a payment is received to dispense a selected item; and
  - a computer assembly connected to said storage and dispensing unit, selector device and payment control
    device, and having a computer, video display screen
    and a modern, whereby said computer is connected to
    and actuated by said selector device for automatically
    connecting said computer to a pre-selected internet site
    and automatically displaying information obtained
    from said internet address on said video screen for
    viewing by the customer.

- 13. A method of providing access to the internet via a vending machine, said method comprising
  - 1) providing a vending machine;
  - 2) providing a computer associated with the vending machine:
- 3) providing means to access the internet, said means comprising at least one of inserting money or credit card information into the vending machine and customer input of data to the computer.
  - 14. The method of claim 13, including providing said computer with a modem.
  - 15. The method of claim 13, wherein said means for customer input is a keyboard.
- 16. The method of claim 13, including providing at least one of audio, video and multimedia capabilities associated with the vending machine.
- 17. The method of claim 13, wherein said access to the internet is effected by inserting coin, currency or credit card information into said vending machine.
- 18. The method of claim 13, wherein said access includes providing means for two-way interactive visual communications by a customer with the internet.
- 19. The method of claim 1.3, further including the step of providing means to allow the customer to download data, audio or video information from the internet and take it away from the vending machine in the form of magnetic or optical storage media.
  - 20. The method of claim 13, including providing the vending machine with a camera.
- 21. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of providing said vending machine is in the form of an existing vending machine.
- 22. The method of claim 13, wherein a customer may transmit data on the internet from the customer's own magnetic or optical storage mediums insertable into drives in the vending

machine.

- 23. The method of claim 13, where said computer also controls various components of the vending machine, in addition to internet access.
- 24. The method of claim 13, further including providing at least one of telephone, cable or satellite communications on said vending machine.
- 25. The method of claim 13, further including providing a microphone on the vending machine.
- 26. A method of attracting greater patronage to a vending machine, said method comprising associating means for interact access with said vending machine.
- 27. The method of claim 26, wherein at least part of said means is located on a door of the vending machine.
- 28. The method of claim 26, wherein the means for internet access displays at least one of informational, entertainment or advertising when a patron is not accessing the internet.
- 29. A method of manufacturing vending machines wherein a vending machine is provided to dispense an article to be purchased by a consumer, the improvement comprising incorporating an interactive consumer accessible internet communication system into the vending machine.
  - 30. A vending machine produced by the method of claim 29.

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